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Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-eighth session
1-12 March 2004
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work*

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":
   (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system;
   (b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;
   (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives:
      (i) The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality;
      (ii) Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building.
4. Communications concerning the status of women.
5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.
6. Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission.
7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session.

* The submission of the present document was delayed awaiting the outcome of informal consultations of the Commission.

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council provides that at the commencement of the first meeting of a regular session, the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chairperson, one or more Vice-Chairpersons and such other officers as may be required. At its forty-eighth session, the Commission elected, in addition to a Chairperson, four Vice-Chairpersons, with one Vice-Chairperson having rapporteurial responsibilities.

In its resolution 1987/21, the Council recommended that, in order to enhance the effectiveness of the work of the Commission, the officers elected to the Bureau of the Commission should serve a term of office of two years. The officers elected at the forty-eighth session will continue to serve during the forty-ninth session.

In accordance with its decision 2002/234, the Council, in order to improve the work of the Commission and to ensure continuity in the work of its successive bureaux, decided that, starting with its forty-seventh session, in 2003, the Commission, immediately following the closure of a regular session, would hold the first meeting of its subsequent regular session for the sole purpose of electing the new Chairperson and other members of the Bureau, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council.

The first meeting of the forty-eighth session was held immediately following the closure of the forty-seventh session, at which point the Commission elected the Chairperson and other members of the Bureau to serve at the forty-eighth and forty-ninth sessions of the Commission.

The membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its forty-eighth through fifty-first sessions is given in annex II to the present document. The membership of the Commission expiring at the end of its forty-ninth through fifty-second sessions is given in annex III.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure provides that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, after the election of its officers, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

The provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-eighth session of the Commission were approved by the Council in its decision 2003/237.

Preparations for the forty-eighth session of the Commission were undertaken in accordance with its agreed conclusions 1996/1 on methods of work. Accordingly, the Bureau of the Commission held several meetings as well as consultative briefings with all interested delegations on 15 December 2003 and 13 January 2004 in order to consider the organization and methods of work for the session.

It is expected that time will be set aside for a general debate. To ensure wide participation, it is recommended that individual interventions by Governments, intergovernmental organizations, United Nations entities and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) be limited to 5 minutes, and that interventions on behalf of groups be limited to 10 minutes, as was the case at previous sessions. It was also

recommended at previous sessions that interventions from NGOs, with geographical location being taken into consideration, be integrated into the general debate and that the participation of NGOs in the general debate would be in addition to their participation in each of the panels on the thematic issues.

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Review of gender mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system:

Review of methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

The General Assembly, in paragraph 46 of its resolution 57/270 B, requested the functional commissions to examine their methods of work in order to better pursue the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, recognizing that there is no need for a uniform approach since each functional commission has its own specificity, while also noting that modern methods of work can better guarantee the review of progress made in implementation at all levels, on the basis of a report with recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General to each functional commission and relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council on their methods of work, in accordance with the provisions defined by the respective outcomes and relevant decisions taken by each body, the functional commissions were requested to report to the Council no later than 2005 on the outcome of that examination. The Commission will have before it a report on its methods of work.

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

In section III, paragraph 5, of its resolution 1996/6, the Council requested the Secretary-General to prepare annually, under item 3, a report on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the progress achieved in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system. This request was most recently reiterated in General Assembly resolution 58/148. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The Commission will have before it a conference room paper on the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly to be held in 2005.

The situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

In its resolution 2003/42 on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women, the Council requested the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and requested

the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation and to assist Palestinian women by all available means and to submit to the Commission at its forty-eighth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Situation of women and girls in Afghanistan

In its resolution 2003/43 on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan, the Council requested the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan and to submit to the Commission at its forty-eighth session a report on progress made in implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

The release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned in armed conflict

In its resolution 46/1, the Commission requested the Secretary-General and all relevant international organizations to use their capabilities and efforts to facilitate the release of women and children taken hostage. It further requested the Secretary-General to prepare, taking into account the information provided by States and relevant international organizations, a report on the implementation of that resolution. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

Joint work plan on the human rights of women

In its resolution 39/5, the Commission requested the Secretary-General to see to the preparation of a joint work plan on the human rights of women for the then Centre for Human Rights and the Division for the Advancement of Women on an annual basis. In its resolution 2003/44, the Commission on Human Rights encouraged the Secretary-General to ensure implementation of the joint work plan, to continue to elaborate the plan, reflecting all aspects of work under way and the lessons learned, to identify obstacles/impediments and areas for further collaboration and to make it available to the Commission on Human Rights at its sixtieth session and to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session. The Commission will have before it the joint work plan.

Improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system

In its resolution 58/144 on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to provide a verbal update on the implementation of the resolution, including by providing up-to-date statistics on the number and percentage of women in all organizational units and at all levels throughout the United Nations system and gender-segregated attrition rates for all organizational units and at all levels, as well as on the implementation of departmental human resource action plans, in particular for the achievement of gender targets, to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session. The Commission will hear an oral report by the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women on that resolution. The Commission will also have before it the report of the Secretary-General to the fifty-eighth session of the General Assembly on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system.

Violence against women

In resolution 50/166 on the role of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in eliminating violence against women, the General Assembly requested UNIFEM to include in its regular reports information on the establishment of a trust fund in support of national, regional and international actions to eliminate violence against women and to provide such information to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights. The Commission on the Status of Women will be provided with such information.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

In accordance with article 21.2 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the reports of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women are transmitted to the Commission for its information. The report of the Committee on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions and a note transmitting the results of the Committee's thirtieth session (12 January to 30 January 2004) will be before the Commission for its information.

2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development

The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/210, requested the Secretary-General to update the *World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* for the consideration of the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session. In accordance with past practice, a note on the preparations of the world Survey will be presented to the Council through the Commission on the Status of Women.

Programme matters

The Commission has before it for its consideration a note by the Secretary-General on the preparation of the strategic framework for the period 2006-2007. In this connection, attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 58/269, in which the Secretary-General was requested to prepare for submission to the Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007, which would comprise in one document part one, a plan outline, and part two, a biennial programme plan, to replace the current medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005.

The Commission is invited to review the proposed biennial programme plan for the subprogramme on gender issues and advancement of women and provide its comments to the Secretary-General. The proposed biennial programme plan, modified as appropriate, will be first submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-fourth session. Its recommendations thereon will be transmitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session when it considers the Secretary-General's proposed strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007.

Documentation

Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/2)

Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in the follow-up to and implementation of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century", and in mainstreaming a gender perspective within the United Nations system (E/CN.6/2004/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/CN.6/2004/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of women and girls in Afghanistan (E/CN.6/2004/5)

Report of the Secretary-General on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflict (E/CN.6/2004/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint work plan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/65-E/CN.6/2004/7)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting information provided by the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/166 (E/CN.6/2004/8)

Note by the Secretariat on the comprehensive review and appraisal of the Fourth World Conference on Women and the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century" in 2005 (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.2)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the results of the thirtieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.3)

Note by the Secretariat containing a preliminary executive summary of the *2004 World Survey on the Role of Women in Development* (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.4)

Note by the Secretariat on proposals for the Secretary-General's strategic framework for the biennium 2006-2007 (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.5)

Documentation for information

Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/58/374)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth sessions (A/58/38)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/58/341)

Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/58/168)

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men

In its resolution 1996/6, the Council decided that the Commission's agenda would annually include a sub-item 3 (b) on emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on emerging issues under that sub-item, as appropriate, at the request of the Commission or its Bureau. No report has been requested under this sub-item.

(c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives

High-level round table

In its decision 46/101, the Commission decided that, starting from its forty-seventh session, it would introduce the option of high-level round tables. It authorized the Bureau, after consultation with all interested States through the regional groups, to decide on the number, timing and theme of any such round tables. At an informal meeting on 13 January 2004, the Commission decided that the theme of the high-level round table at the forty-eighth session would be "Gaps and challenges in measuring progress in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session in 2005". The Commission will have before it, under item 3 (c), a discussion guide on the round table.

Documentation

Discussion guide on the high-level round table. Note of the Bureau (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.1)

Thematic issues

In its resolution 2001/4, the Council decided on the multi-year programme of work of the Commission for the period from 2002 to 2006, including a calendar for considering implementation of strategic objectives and actions in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives. For 2004, the following two themes were identified: "The role of men and boys in gender equality"; and "Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building". The Commission will have before it two reports of the Secretary-General on these thematic issues, including conclusions and recommendations emanating from expert group meetings that were held on the themes.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality (E/CN.6/2004/9)

Report of the Secretary-General on women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building (E/CN.6/2004/10)

4. Communications concerning the status of women

In its resolution 76 (V), the Council established a procedure by which the Commission would receive and consider communications relating to the status of women. In its resolution 304 I (XI), the Council amended resolution 76 (V) and requested the Secretary-General to compile, before each session of the Commission, a list of confidential and non-confidential communications, containing a brief indication of the substance of each communication.

In its resolution 1983/27, the Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women, and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group to consider such communications and prepare a report thereon for the Commission.

In its resolution 1993/11, the Council reaffirmed that the Commission was empowered to make recommendations to the Council on what action should be taken on emerging trends and patterns of discrimination against women revealed by such communications.

In its decision 2002/235, the Council decided, in order to make the communications procedure of the Commission more effective and efficient:

(a) That the Commission, starting at its forty-seventh session, should appoint, at each session, the members of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women for the next session so that the members may meet to enable the secretariat to issue their report three working days before the adoption of the agenda by the Commission;

(b) To request the Secretary-General:

(i) To inform Governments about each communication pertaining to them that will be considered by the Commission and give them at least 12 weeks before the consideration of such communications by the Working Group;

(ii) To ensure that the members of the Working Group receive, in advance, the lists of communications, including replies from Governments, if any, to be taken into account in preparing its reports for examination by the Commission.

In its decision 47/102, the Commission decided to continue consideration of the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report for this purpose, bearing in mind the preliminary discussion that took place at the forty-seventh session of the Commission and seeking the written views of Member States in this regard. The Commission will have before it the report requested.

At the closure of the forty-seventh session, the Commission appointed the members of the Working Group to serve at the forty-eighth session. The Commission will be called upon to appoint, before closure of the forty-eighth session, the members of the Working Group for the forty-ninth session.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/11 and E/CN.6/2004/11/Add.1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women (E/CN.6/2004/SW/Communications List No. 38 and E/CN.6/2004/SW/Communications List No. 38/Add.1)

5. **Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions**

The Commission will have before it a letter of the President of the Council on follow-up to the Council's policy guidance.

The Council, in its resolution 2001/27, invited its functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level and/or coordination segments. The Commission will have before it a note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2004 high-level segment of the Council on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010".

Documentation

Letter dated 31 October 2003 from the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women (E/CN.6/2004/12)

Note by the Secretariat as an input to the 2004 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council (E/CN.6/2004/CRP.6)

6. **Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission**

Pursuant to paragraph 3 of Council resolution 1894 (LVII) and in accordance with Council decision 2003/237, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-ninth session, with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation.

7. **Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session**

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council, the Commission shall submit to the Council a report on the work of its forty-eighth session.

Annex I

Proposed organization of work

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Monday, 1 March		Opening of the session
a.m.	2 Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters	Introduction of reports followed by dialogue
	3 Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"	General debate
p.m.	3 (c) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in the critical areas of concern and further actions and initiatives	High-level round table on the theme: "Gaps and challenges in measuring progress in the context of the review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly at the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session, in 2005"
Tuesday, 2 March		
a.m.	3 (c) (ii) Women's equal participation in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace-building	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
p.m.	3 (c) (i) The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality	Panel of experts: presentation and dialogue
Wednesday, 3 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General debate
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	General debate
Thursday, 4 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	General debate
p.m.	3 (a) Review of gender mainstreaming in organizations of the United Nations system	Methods of work of the Commission on the Status of Women
		Review and appraisal of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"
	4 Future work of the Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women	
	5 Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions	

Date/time	*Agenda item*	*Programme*
Friday, 5 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Monday, 8 March		
a.m.		Observance of International Women's Day: "Women and HIV/AIDS"
noon to 1 p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Tuesday, 9 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
p.m.	6 Provisional agenda for the forty-ninth session of the Commission	Introduction of proposals including provisional agenda for the next session
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Wednesday, 10 March		
a.m.	4 Communications concerning the status of women	Closed meeting to consider the report of the Working Group on Communications
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Thursday, 11 March		
a.m.	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
p.m.	3 (*continued*)	Action on proposals
	3 (*continued*)	Informal consultations
Friday, 12 March		
a.m.		Action on outstanding issues
p.m.	7 Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-eighth session	Adoption of the report
		Closure of the session

Annex II

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-eighth session*

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, respectively*
Algeria	2007
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2007
Azerbaijan	2005
Belgium	2007
Benin	2004
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Brazil	2004
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2004
Chile	2004
Congo	2007
Croatia	2004
Cuba	2006
Denmark	2004
Dominican Republic	2004
Gabon	2006
Germany	2005
Guatemala	2006
Guinea	2005
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2005
Kyrgyzstan	2004
Malaysia	2005
Malawi	2004
Netherlands	2005
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007
Pakistan	2005
Peru	2005

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, respectively*
Republic of Korea	2006
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Thailand	2007
Tunisia	2005
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2005
United States of America	2004

[a] Membership expires at the conclusion of the forty-eighth, forty-ninth, fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, in 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007, respectively, as indicated.

Annex III

Membership of the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-ninth session[a]

(45 members; four-year term)

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, respectively*
Algeria	2007
Argentina	2005
Armenia	2007
Azerbaijan	2005
Belgium	2007
Bolivia	2007
Botswana	2006
Burkina Faso	2006
Canada	2007
China	2008
Congo	2007
Cuba	2006
Dominican Republic	2008
El Salvador	2008
Gabon	2006
Germany	2005
Ghana	2008
Guatemala	2006
Guinea	2005
Hungary	2008
Iceland	2008
India	2007
Indonesia	2006
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2006
Japan	2005
Kazakhstan	2008
Malaysia	2005
Mauritius	2004
Netherlands	2005
Nicaragua	2006
Nigeria	2007
Pakistan	2005
Peru	2005
Republic of Korea	2006

Membership	*Conclusion of forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, respectively*
Russian Federation	2007
South Africa	2006
Sudan	2006
Suriname	2004
Thailand	2007
Tunisia	2005
Turkey	2007
United Arab Emirates	2006
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2005
United Republic of Tanzania	2005
United States of America	2008

[*] Membership expires at the conclusion of the forty-ninth, fiftieth, fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, respectively, as indicated.